

To the Chairman and Members of the Finedon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my tenth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Township.

There are 846 inhabited and 77 uninhabited houses in the township, and I estimate the population at 4,214, which allows rather under five persons to each house.

The number of births registered during the year was 113, giving a birth rate of 26.8 per 1000 per annum; the lowest birth rate I have yet recorded.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 56, giving a rate of 13.2 per 1000 per annum. This rate compares favourably with those of the preceding nine years.

The total number of deaths included 21 under one year of age, giving an infantile death rate of 185.8 per 1000 births registered. This is the highest rate I have yet recorded.

Cancer caused one death.

Phthisis caused two deaths, giving a rate of .4 per 1000 per annum. A good rate.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, other than Phthisis, caused five deaths, giving a rate of 1.1 per 1000 per annum. This is also a satisfactory rate.

There were eight deaths from Zymotic Diseases, viz., four from Whooping Cough and four from Enteric Fever, giving a rate of 1.9 per 1000 per annum. This is not a bad rate, considering the severe epidemic of Enteric Fever. Thirty-eight cases of this disease occurred.

Two inquests were held. "Accidental death" being the verdict in one case, and "natural causes" in the other.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows:—

Under one year,	One year and under five years,	Five years and under fifteen years,	Fifteen years and under twenty-five years,	Twenty-five years and under sixty-five years,	Sixty-five years and upwards,
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During the past year, with the exception of the outbreak of Enteric Fever, the Public Health has been good.

Thirty-eight cases of Enteric Fever were reported, and four deaths occurred. I presented special reports to you during the epidemic. The outbreak was without doubt due, in the majority of cases, to the drinking of water contaminated with sewage matter. A few of the cases were contact cases.

The water of the wells suspected was forbidden to be used for domestic purposes. The services of a trained Nurse were obtained, and funds for payment of same provided, by the Committee of the old Nursing Association.

To the thorough and conscientious way in which the Nurse performed her duties is due the smallness of the death rate from Zymotic Disease.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, and as the Mulso School had become an infected area, I ordered them to be closed a week prior to the summer holidays, and afterwards had them well disinfected. The outbreak was effectually checked. Considering the prevalence of this disease in the neighbouring township of Irthlingborough, we were lucky to have escaped so easily.

Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent during the earlier part of the year, and accounted for four of the deaths.

With regard to the working of the Factory Act during the year, I have to report as follows:—

There are 11 Factories and 10 Workshops in the town, and lists of 69 outworkers have been supplied.

The Factories, Workshops, and Home-workers' premises have been frequently inspected, and it has not been necessary to send in any written notices of complaints, and there have been no prosecutions under the Act.

Any demands made by your Sanitary Inspector have been readily acceded to.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly inspected, and the demands of the Inspector in all cases satisfied.

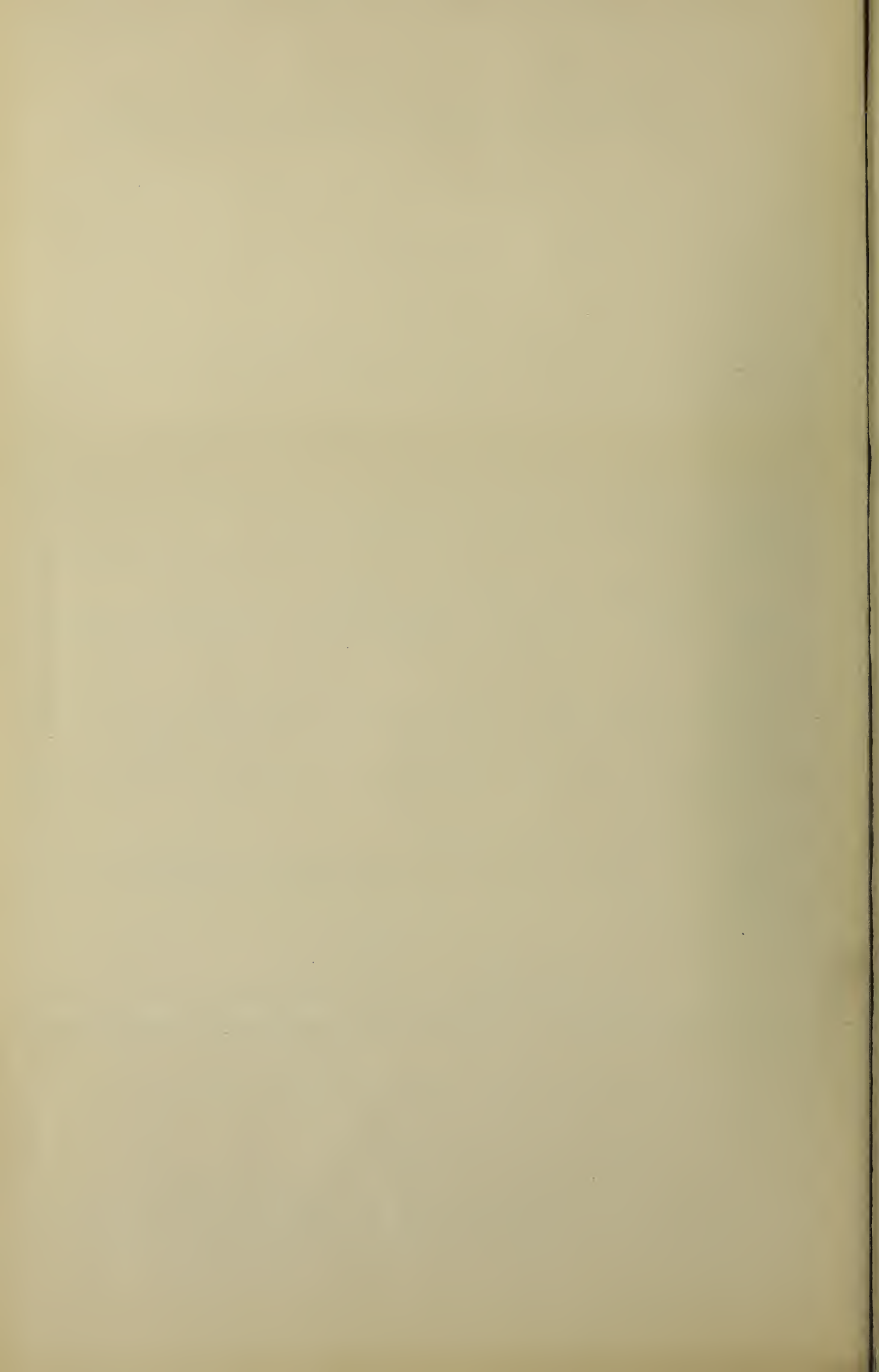
The five slaughter-houses have also been regularly inspected.

One case of overcrowding was reported and remedied.

The condition of eight pigstyes has been enquired into, and defects in sanitation remedied.

One hundred and forty-one closets have been connected with the sewer, and it is to be hoped that now we have a plentiful supply of water for flushing purposes that those still unconnected will soon be so.

Houses in which there have been cases of infectious disease have been well disinfected.



In concluding my Report, I have to congratulate you on the completion of the Water Scheme. Many connections have been made, but the somewhat saline taste of the water is objected to by some people.

I think this a good opportunity to lay before the public of Finedon the report of Mr. Elborne, the Analyst, of Peterborough, on the sample of water I sent him for examination. He reports as follows :

Chemical Analysis and Report on a sample of water from a deep well at Finedon (125 feet deep), inflow 100,000 gallons daily.

Analysis expressed in grains and decimal parts of a grain per gallon :—

Chloride of Sodium	...	...	...	104
Carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	27
Sulphate of Soda	...	...	...	14
Carbonate of Lime	...	...	...	4.9
Carbonate of Magnesia	...	...	...	3.1
Total solids in solution				153.0
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.05
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.00
Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	0.00

Total hardness, $3\frac{3}{4}$ degrees.

REPORT.—The above analysis indicates a water of first-class purity : thoroughly wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The saline constituents are such that they impart exceeding softness to the water. Suitable for a public supply.

WILLIAM ELBORNE.

This analysis and report is a most satisfactory one. The saline taste is due to the large amount of Chloride of Sodium, or common salt, contained in the water. The amount so contained is not in the least harmful to health, and will probably vary from time to time.

In using the new water for tea making, the water should be used immediately it comes to the boil, because the longer it boils the saltier it will taste, owing to the evaporation.

Another point in connection with tea making. The water contains some 3 grains to the pint of Carbonate of Soda, and so possesses an increased extractive power on vegetable tissues, such as tea, &c., imparting a much deeper colour to the infusion. So less tea need be used to produce a decent-looking infusion than was necessary to produce the same result with the shallower well water.

The presence of this Carbonate of Soda is a good feature of the water, because it indicates as a rule water from a deep-seated strata, far removed from sewage and surface pollution. I feel sure that when more connections are made to the mains, so that a constant flow is maintained through them, and when the mains get seasoned, the people will like the water much better than they do now. Another grand feature of the water is its exceeding softness. The saving in soap alone will be very considerable.

Finally, Gentlemen, as this may be the last chance I may have of addressing you before the dissolution of the Council in March next, I should like, before sitting down, to thank you for the kindly and courteous way in which you have treated me at all times during the past three years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

